OTI-57-70 Nevada Test Organization July 29, 1957

OFFICE OF TEST INFORMATION
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A pilot who landed his small private aircraft late Sunday on the Watertown air strip within the restricted air space over the Nevada Test Site was to take off today after being detained overnight at Mercury.

The pilot is [DELETED] of Redondo Beach, California, an employee of the Douglas Aircraft Company. He was on a cross country training flight from Torrance, California, to Las Vegas, when he lost his way, ran low on gas, and landed at Watertown.

The Watertown landing strip is in the Groom Lake area at the northeast corner of the Nevada Test Site.

Nevada Test Organization security officials reported the incident to the Civil Aeronautics Administration, which administers the air closure over the Test Site.

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Even back in 1957, Groom was an extremely classified area, during the U-2 program. One can imagine the kind of reception this pilot got...

The document Accession Number is NV034090.

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Date: Fri, 21 Apr 95 20:46:19 PDT